GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2212
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2002
FLOOD PRONE RIVER BASINS
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has identified the flood prone river basins and the rivers in Bihar, West Bengal and Assam;

(b) if so, whether any short term and long term measures have been taken to control the flood menace specially in reference to Brahmaputra Valley of Assam, Indo-Nepal border of Bihar and flood prone districts of Uttar Dinajpur, Daskshin Dinajpur, Malda and Murshidabad of West Bengal; and

(c) if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred for the purpose in the Tenth Plan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) The Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) constitutedby the Central Government in 1972 and the Brahmaputra Board in 1982, have prepared Master Plans for the Ganga;and Brahmaputra & Barak basins respectively. The Master Plan for the Ganga basin interalia includes the States of Bihar and West Bengal whereas the State of Assam is covered by the Master Plan prepared for the Brahmaputra & Barak basin. These Master Plans interalia haveidentified the flood prone river basins and the rivers in the States of Bihar, West Bengal and Assam.

(b) & (c) Flood Management being a State subject,the responsibility of planning, funding, executing and operating of flood control schemes primarily rests with the concerned State Governments. The assistance rendered by the Central Government is technical, catalytic and promotional in nature.

However, the Central Government, inaddition to constituting GFCC and Brahmaputra Board also set up Rashtriya Barh Ayog in 1976 besides setting up a number of Expert Committees to study and examine the problems relating to floods in the country which have made recommendations for both short term and long term measures for implementation by the respective State Governments.

A National Flood Forecasting and Warning System has beenestablished by Central Water Commissionwhich issues flood forecasts at 159 stations in the country which also includes the States of Bihar, West Bengaland Assam. In addition a scheme namely, "Flood Forecasting and Warning System on rivers common to India and Nepal" has also been in operation since 1989 to provide forecasts in the State of Bihar on the rivers flowing from Nepal.

For dealing with the problems of inundation in the vicinity of India − Nepal border, a Standing Committee on Inundation Problems between India and Nepal is also functioning since 1986. So far, twelve meetings have been held in which various issues have been sorted out.

A model draft bill for Flood Plain Zoning was also prepared and sent to the State Governments.

The Government of India have also beenproviding central assistance to various States. A total outlay of Rs. 342 crore towards central assistance has been proposed during the 10th Plan to take up critical anti erosion works in Ganga Basin States including West Bengal and for implementation of flood management schemes benefiting North Eastern States including Assam.